

Remarks

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103:

Claims 19, 22, 23, and 29-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff et al. (WO 00/03694).

Claims 27 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff et al. (WO 00/03694) in view of Wolff et al. (WO 00/75164).

The Action states that polyanions with cleavable side chains were taught by Wolff et al. The Action further states that Wolff et al. taught that such polyanions could contain dimethylmaleyl acid connected to an amine on a polyion. However, Wolff et al. do not teach any membrane active polymers or that membrane active polymers can be reversibly inhibited by maleic anhydride derivatives.

The Action is a Final Rejection and states that this new rejection was necessitated by the amendment of claim 19. Applicants respectfully disagree. The amendment of claim 19 incorporated only limitations present in the originally filed claims. Therefore the rejection could have been made in the previous office action. It is the Applicants' opinion that the rejection should not have been final.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 19, 22, 23, and 27-32 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the USPTO on this date: 31 Aug. 2007.

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